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UNCLAS QUITO 000515

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GOE SUPPORTS UNGA ANTI-CLONING RESOLUTION

REF: SECSTATE 33944

1. (U) In response to Reftel, the Embassy March 2 transmitted anti-human cloning points and draft UNGA resolution to the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry's Multilateral Affairs subsecretariat and the Vatican Embassy. In a follow-up telcon March 3, MFA Director General for Human Rights Carmen Larrea told Poloff that Ecuador's constitution (Article 23, Section 2) prohibited the improper application and use of human genetic material. "Improper" was the key word, Larrea emphasized. Ecuadorian experts believed that no convincing evidence currently existed to prove that human cloning offered therapeutic benefits, making support for ongoing experimentation improper. On those grounds, Ecuador had voted for the UN Sixth Committee's Declaration Against Human Cloning, and would support the upcoming anti-cloning UNGA resolution without amendments.

2. (SBU) Holy See Charge d'Affaires Mark Miles told Poloff March 3 that the Vatican was fully energized in support of the UNGA resolution. The newly-named Ecuadorian nuncio, in Rome for consultations, had telephoned Miles earlier that day, urging him to seek an immediate audience with Foreign Minister Patricio Zuquilanda. As Zuquilanda and Deputy FM Edwin Johnson were unavailable, Miles instead called on the MFA's Number 3, Subsecretary for Bilateral Affairs Roberto Betancourt. Betancourt's message tracked closely with Larrea's. He informed the Vatican envoy that Ecuador supported the UNGA resolution as-is; the MFA would issue voting instructions to its UN mission March 4.
KENNEY